

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
U.S.S. Lead Response - SitRep #14



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 5

Subject: SitRep #14
U.S.S. Lead Response
East Chicago, IN

To: U.S.S. Lead Response Distribution List

Through: Jaime Brown, Incident Commander
From: Sam Chummar, Situation Unit Leader

Date: 8/29/16
Reporting Period: 8/26/16, 1700 hours – 8/29/16, 1700 hours



Notifying residents of indoor sampling results

Section 1: Introduction & Site Background

The U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc. (U.S.S. Lead) site is located in East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana. A copper smelter, lead refinery and secondary lead smelter operated on site from the 1920s to 1985. Smelting operations volatilized metals including lead and arsenic. Some lead-containing dust was wind deposited on the area soils during these operations. Blast furnace slag was stockpiled south of the plant building and spread once a year over an adjoining wetland south of the Site. The primary contaminants of concern are lead and arsenic which are present in exposed soils and subsequently could be tracked into the area residences.

EPA listed the U.S.S. Lead site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2009. The site includes part of the former U.S.S. Lead facility along with nearby commercial, municipal and residential areas. The overall site has been divided into three zones. The Removal Program is currently addressing soil and residential contamination in Zone 1 and specifically at the West Calumet Housing Complex (WCHC). Mulch has been placed over all exposed soils at the WCHC. Indoor sampling has been conducted in a subset of WCHC homes and analytical results are being validated. Teams have been mobilized to communicate directly with residents, develop temporary relocation procedures, develop cleaning procedures, and initiate outdoor sampling. The Remedial Program is currently collecting samples in Zones 2 and 3, and the analytical results will be evaluated for other potential areas needing remediation.

EPA is working in a Unified Command Group with the City of East Chicago, the East Chicago Housing Authority (ECHA), the State of Indiana, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1.1 Incident Command Post

The U.S. EPA Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at E. 149th Place and McCook Avenue, East Chicago, IN.

1.2 Objectives

- Ensure health and safety of the public and response personnel.
- Provide and manage necessary communications, both internally and externally.
- Continue home cleaning and temporary relocation for residents in Zone 1.
- Continue sampling indoor dust in Zone 1, and as requested in Zones 2 and 3.
- Perform soil sampling in Zone 2 and 3.
- Move EPA staff to Carrie Gosch School.
- Finalize Air Monitoring Plan and begin air monitoring in Zone 1.

1.3 Staffing

As of 1500 hours, 77 people were checked in either on site or in the EOC. For more detailed staffing information, see Section 3: Metrics Table or Appendix B: Organizational Chart.

Section 2: Activities During Reporting Period

2.1 Incident Command

- Evaluating the option to add Ameristar Casino Hotel as an additional relocation option
- Attended Daily OPS call with EPA senior management and HQ at 09:00 and 16:00.
- Prepared and signed 40 letters to inform Zone 1 residents of their indoor dust sampling results on 8/27.
- Signed off on completion of cleaning of 6 homes on 8/27

2.2 Indoor Sampling Team

- Collected 1 pre-cleaning dust sampling
- Working on schedules for post cleaning sampling
- Began distributing sampling results letters to residents

2.3 Community Involvement Team

- Answered the EPA hotline (219-801-2199)
- Responded to phone call / walk-in inquiries from East Chicago residents with general questions about lead. Total contact for today is 15.

- CIC's designed the layout of the information tables for the open house. CIC's and ATSDR went with ERRS to look at the space and transport some of the information that will be distributed and posters that will be displayed.

2.4 Relocation Team

- Completed 3 interviews, all agreed to the house cleaning. Two more pending today.
- 5 interviews scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday).
- 7 families returned home on Saturday 8/27
- 3 families returned home today; 0 return home tomorrow.
- 3 families relocated today.
- Scheduled temporary relocation move-out dates:
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 8/30.
 - 4 families temporarily relocating on 8/31.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/1.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/6.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/7.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/8.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/9.
 - 3 families temporarily relocating on 9/13.
 - 2 families temporarily relocation on 9/14.
 - 1 family temporarily relocation on 9/15
 - 2 families temporarily relocation on 9/16

2.5 Liaison

- Emailed police chief regarding move out schedule and requested follow-up meeting
- Provided information to Carla Morgan, counsel for East Chicago, about relocation and cleaning schedule. Also informed Ms. Morgan of the role of East Chicago's representative to Unified Command. Ms. Morgan will pass information onto Mayor of East Chicago.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Multi-Agency Availability Session	Carrie Gosch School	8/30/16	13:00 -16:00 and 18:00 – 20:00

2.6 Public Information

- Assisted with updates to the West Calumet website

2.7 Safety

- Reviewed Hospital plan and emergency response plans and contact information with the new employees on site.
- Still awaiting contractor edits to the Harmonized HASP.
- 1 contractor incident to report – a bee sting
 - ERRS reported a crew member being stung by a bee, he was treated, stinger was removed and he is fine. There is no further follow-up needed
- Reviewing plans with the IC and ops chiefs to determine what the safety needs/concerns will be moving forward.

2.8 Finance

- Reminder to check the R5EOC email from 8/29/16 at 10:38am for USS Lead Deployment accounting codes.
- Additional remedial funding has been received in the region and will be added to both ERRS and START shortly.
- Finance is working to ensure accounting codes work across EPA systems.

2.9 Remedial (Zone 2 & 3)

- Today we have 4 full operating teams, 3 sampling teams are collecting samples in South of Zone 2, also training newly arrived field team members (SCST and TetraTech) and 1 team is processing the samples and working to complete database requests.
- Sampled soil at 3 locations in Zone 2, bringing to total to 81.
- Resampled soil at 4 locations in Zone 3.
- Signed 0 Zone 2 access agreements, bringing total to 325.

2.10 Data Management

- Continue to create data management plan outlining responsibilities, data flow, storage, and access of data through web-based tools. All known data flows have been documented.
- Continue creating Web mapping tools for all electronic data services. Logins have been created.
- Field Scribe database for the remedial sampling has been published and merged with the master database. Issues are being worked out to fix any invalid or orphan samples.
- 6 high volume air samplers have been acquired. 5 TSI particulate monitoring units have been set-up plus a 5 unit VIPER 900 MHz radio unit has been built for the continuous air monitoring and sampling starting this week.

Section 3: Metrics Table

Metrics—Sampling, Zone 1	Today	To Date
Residences with Indoor Dust Samples Collected	1	73
Residences Scheduled for Indoor Dust Sampling Appointments	13	60
Validated Pre-Cleaning Sampling Results Received from Lab (Reported in Residences)	0	55
Residences Verbally Contacted about Sampling Results	0	34
Result Letters	5	5
Hand Delivered	5	5
Provided During Relocation Interview	0	0
Mailed	0	0
Metrics—Sampling, Zone 2		
Total Properties		586
Access Agreements Signed	0	325
Soil Samples Collected	3	81
Metrics—Sampling, Zone 3		
Total Properties		463
Access Agreements Signed	0	406
No Access/Denied Access	0	57
Metrics—Relocation		
Residents Contacted	62	280
Relocation Interviews Conducted	3 Completed 2 pending	62
Cleaning Access Agreements Signed	3 complete 2 pending	62
Currently Relocated Residences	3	
Homes Cleaned	6	27
Households Returned to Home	10	26
Metrics—Personnel		
EPA on site	15	
Coordinating agency onsite	2	
Contractors/other onsite	58	
EPA in Emergency Operations Center (EOC)	2	
TOTAL	77	

Section 4: Definition of Terms

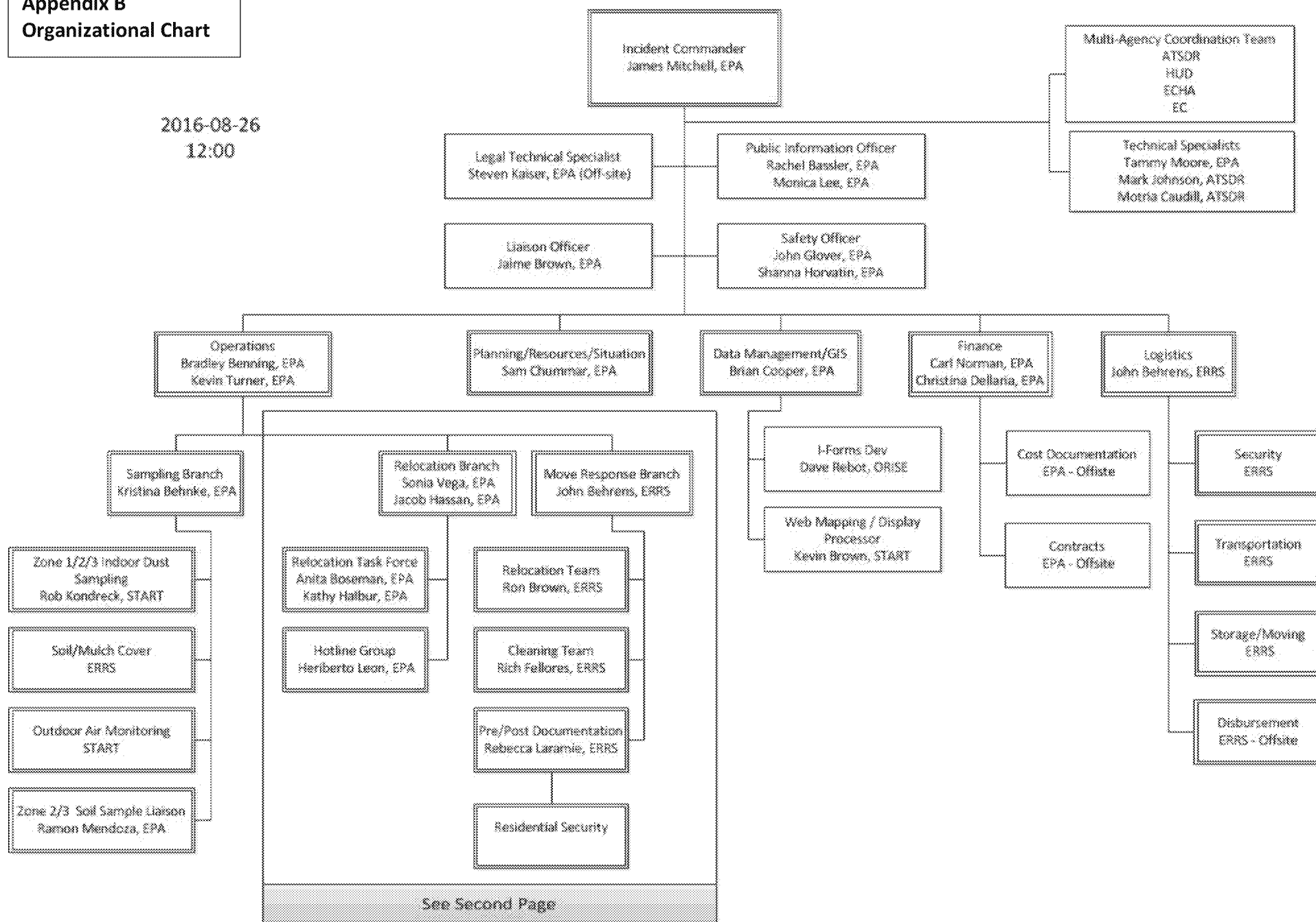
Acronym	Definition
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
DOJ	Department of Justice
ECHA	East Chicago Housing Authority
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ERRS	Emergency Rapid Response Services
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICP	Incident Command Post
ISDH	Indiana State Department of Health
ORC	Office of Regional Counsel
NPL	National Priority List
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SitRep	Situation Report
START	Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
WCHC	West Calumet Housing Complex
U.S.S Lead	U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc.
XRF	X-ray Fluorescence

Appendix A Site Diagram



Appendix B Organizational Chart

2016-08-26
12:00



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